

Food & Drug Commissioner 9469 01 APR -4 P1:11
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Docket # OON-1396 & # OOD-1598

It is alarming to realize that the United States government has permitted corporations to introduce substances into our food supply through genetic engineering without proper testing. These companies need to be required to conduct pre-market safety tests at their expense, and any altered food allowed onto the market should be labeled clearly.

A few of the reasons we object to genetically engineered crops are:

1. Familiar foods can become allergenic through the addition of foreign genes such as those from a brazil nut introduced into a soybean.
2. Genetic engineering has the potential to make regularly consumed foods become toxic.
3. Toxicity can result from characteristics introduced unintentionally.
4. Antibiotic resistance marker genes are being used, and may add to the problem we are already experiencing with antibiotic resistance among disease-causing bacteria.
5. Pesticidal crops may be toxic to non-target organisms, including the monarch butterfly (milkweed commonly grows near corn).
6. Children's exposure to the herbicide Roundup could be increased with the introduction of Roundup Ready grass seed from Scotts.

As you are aware, genetically engineered foods are now unlabeled in our supermarkets. These products should be taken OFF the shelf until they are thoroughly tested, and then clearly labeled. Our public health and safety is being threatened.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah L. Murphy
Shavertown, PA

OON-1396

C 4532